

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for enabling anonymous communications from
2 a first device using Bluetooth communications protocol,
3 comprising the steps of:
 - 4 obtaining a temporary identification number for the
5 first device; and
 - 6 transmitting information including the temporary
7 identification number from the first device.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining
2 further comprises the step of generating the temporary
3 identification number at the first device.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises generating the temporary
3 identification number using an algorithm.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises generating the temporary
3 identification number at a Bluetooth chip within the first
4 device.

1 5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises the step of generating the
3 temporary identification number on a periodic basis.

1 6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises the step of generating the
3 temporary identification number at random intervals.

1 7. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises the step of generating the
3 temporary identification number at a beginning of a
4 transaction.

1 8. The method of Claim 2, further including the steps
2 of generating an access code identifying a format of the
3 temporary identification number.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of
2 transmitting further includes transmitting information
3 including the temporary identification number and the access
4 code.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, further including the step of
2 periodically obtaining a new temporary identification number
3 to be associated with the first device.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining
2 further comprises the step of receiving a temporary
3 identification number from a source located remotely from the
4 first device.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of
2 receiving further comprises the steps of:
3 requesting the temporary identification number from
4 the remote source; and
5 receiving the temporary identification number from
6 the remote source responsive to the request.

1 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of
2 requesting the temporary identification number further
3 includes the steps of:

4 generating a random identification number at the
5 first device; and

6 using the random identification number within the
7 request for the temporary identification number.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of
2 generating a random identification number comprises the step
3 of randomly generating a portion of bits comprising a
4 Bluetooth address.

1 15. The method of Claim 14, further including the step
2 of periodically regenerating the portion of the bits
3 comprising the Bluetooth address.

1 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of
2 generating a random identification number comprises the step
3 of randomly generating 32 bits of the 48 bits of the Bluetooth
4 addresses.

1 17. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of
2 generating a random identification number comprises the step
3 of randomly generating LAP and UAP fields of a Bluetooth
4 address.

1 18. The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of
2 receiving a temporary identification number further comprises
3 receiving an identity token for use as the temporary
4 identification number broadcast from the remote source.

1 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the identity token
2 is substantially continuously broadcast.

1 20. The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of
2 receiving further comprises the step of receiving the
3 temporary identification number responsive to an inquiry from
4 the remote source.

1 21. The method of Claim 11, wherein the remote source
2 comprises a non Bluetooth device.

1 22. The method of Claim 11, wherein the remote source
2 comprises a Bluetooth device.

1 23. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 storing multiple temporary identification numbers
4 within the first device; and
5 randomly selecting one of the multiple temporary
6 identification numbers as the temporary identification number.

1 24. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 establishing a first connection between the first
4 device and a second device;
5 exchanging data over the first connection between
6 the first and the second devices; and
7 generating the temporary identification number using
8 the exchanged data.

1 25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the data comprises
2 a non-temporary identification number and an index value.

1 26. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first Bluetooth device and a second Bluetooth
3 device, comprising the steps of:

4 generating a temporary identification number at the
5 first Bluetooth device using an algorithm within the first
6 Bluetooth device;

7 inserting the temporary identification number as a
8 Bluetooth identification number into messages to be
9 transmitted from the first Bluetooth device; and

10 transmitting the messages from the first Bluetooth
11 device to the second Bluetooth device.

1 27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises the step of generating the
3 temporary identification number on a periodic basis.

1 28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises the step of generating the
3 temporary identification number at random intervals.

1 29. The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of
2 generating further comprises the step of generating the
3 temporary identification number at a beginning of a
4 transaction.

1 30. The method of Claim 26, further including the step
2 of periodically obtaining a new temporary identification
3 number to be associated with the Bluetooth communications
4 protocol.

1 31. The method of Claim 30, further including the step
2 of inserting a period of time the temporary identification
3 number is valid into the message.

1 32. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first Bluetooth device and a second Bluetooth
3 device, comprising the steps of:

4 establishing a first connection between the first
5 device and the second Bluetooth device;

6 exchanging a non-temporary identification number and
7 an index value over the first connection between the first
8 Bluetooth and the second Bluetooth devices;

9 generating a temporary identification number using
10 the non-temporary identification number and an index value;
11 and

12 establishing a connection between the first
13 Bluetooth device and the second Bluetooth device using the
14 temporary identification number as a Bluetooth identification
15 number.

1 33. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first Bluetooth device and a second Bluetooth
3 device, comprising the steps of:

4 generating a random identification number at the
5 first Bluetooth device;

6 transmitting a request including the random
7 identification number as a Bluetooth identification number to
8 the second Bluetooth device;

9 transmitting a response to the request including a
10 temporary identification number from the second Bluetooth
11 device to the first Bluetooth device;

12 establishing communications between the first and
13 the second Bluetooth devices using the temporary
14 identification number as a Bluetooth identification number.

1 34. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first Bluetooth device and a second Bluetooth
3 device, comprising the steps of:

4 broadcasting an identity token from a location;
5 receiving the identity token at the first Bluetooth
6 device; and
7 transmitting messages from the first Bluetooth
8 device to the second Bluetooth device including the identity
9 token therein as a Bluetooth identification number.

1 35. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first Bluetooth device and a second Bluetooth
3 device, comprising the steps of:

4 generating a Bluetooth address having randomly
5 generated LAP and UAP fields; and

6 establishing a connection between the first
7 Bluetooth device and the second Bluetooth device using the
8 generated Bluetooth address.

1 36. The method of Claim 35, further including the steps
2 of:

3 establishing a security pairing between the first
4 Bluetooth device and the second Bluetooth device; and

5 exchanging fixed Bluetooth addresses between the
6 first Bluetooth device and the second Bluetooth device.

1 37. The method of Claim 35, wherein the step of
2 establishing further comprises the steps of:

3 generating an access code from the generated
4 Bluetooth address; and

5 paging the second Bluetooth device from the first
6 Bluetooth device using the generated access code.

1 38. A Bluetooth device, comprising:
2 circuitry for communicating from the Bluetooth
3 device to a second Bluetooth device; and
4 a module for obtaining a temporary identification
5 number for use in from the Bluetooth device to the second
6 Bluetooth device.

1 39. The Bluetooth device of Claim 38, further including
2 a first storage area for storing the temporary identification
3 number.

1 40. The Bluetooth device of Claim 39, further including
2 a second storage area for storing a fixed identification
3 number associated with the Bluetooth device.

1 41. The Bluetooth device of Claim 38, further including
2 a table for storing of temporary identification numbers
3 associated with other Bluetooth devices communicating with the
4 Bluetooth device.

1 42. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first wireless network device and a second wireless
3 network device, comprising the steps of:

4 generating a temporary identification number at the
5 first wireless network device using an algorithm within the
6 first wireless network device;

7 inserting the temporary identification number as a
8 wireless network identification number into messages to be
9 transmitted from the first wireless network device; and

10 transmitting the messages from the first wireless
11 network device to the second wireless network device.

1 43. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first wireless network device and a second wireless
3 network device, comprising the steps of:
4 establishing a first connection between the first
5 wireless network device and the second wireless network
6 device;
7 exchanging a non-temporary identification number and
8 an index value over the first connection between the first
9 wireless network device and the second wireless network
10 devices;
11 generating a temporary identification number using
12 the non-temporary identification number and an index value;
13 and
14 establishing a connection between the first wireless
15 network device and the second wireless network device using
16 the temporary identification number as a wireless network
17 identification number.

1 44. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first wireless network device and a second wireless
3 network device, comprising the steps of:

4 generating a random identification number at the
5 first wireless network device;

6 transmitting a request including the random
7 identification number as a wireless network identification
8 number to the second wireless network device;

9 transmitting a response to the request including a
10 temporary identification number from the second wireless
11 network device to the first wireless network device;

12 establishing communications between the first and
13 the second wireless network devices using the temporary
14 identification number as a wireless network identification
15 number.

1 45. A method for enabling anonymous communications
2 between a first wireless network device and a second wireless
3 network device, comprising the steps of:

4 broadcasting an identity token from a location;
5 receiving the identity token at the first wireless
6 network device; and
7 transmitting messages from the first wireless
8 network device to the second wireless network device including
9 the identity token therein as a wireless network
10 identification number.